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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1802

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, RO, PINT

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT AND ROMANIAN
LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE

REF: BUCHAREST 1186 AND 1233

SUMMARY: FRG AND U.S. REPS GAVE SIMILAR ACCOUNTS TO APRIL 2
POLADS MEETING OF CEAUSESCU'S ELECTION AND INSTALLATION AS ROMANIAN
PRESIDENT. FRG EVALUATION OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE
AS STRENGTHENING CEAUSESCU'S POSITION PARALLELED THAT OF
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST (WHOSE REFTELS U.S. REP DREW UPON). FRG REP
GAVE FOLLOWING APPRECIATION AND INFORMATION ON CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT OF FRG SPEAKING NOTES:

1. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE CHANGES IS THAT
CEAUSESCU HAS FURTHER CONSOLIDATED HIS POSITION, BECAUSE
MAURER'S STRONG PERSONALITY WILL NO LONGER MAKE ITSELF
FELT IN THE CONTROL OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND
BECAUSE, BY ASSUMING THE NEW OFFICE OF "PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC" IN ADDITION TO HIS PRESENT POST AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL, HE WILL, IN COMPARISON
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WITH THE OTHER LEADERS, STAND OUT EVEN MORE PROMINENTLY
THAN BEFORE.

2. IT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING THAT IMPORTANT POSTS

WITHIN THE GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY MACHINERY HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH ECONOMISTS, SUCH AS MANEA MANESCU AS PRIME MINISTER, ILIE VERDETZ AS CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPORTANT WORKERS' CONTROL COUNCIL, AND GHEORGHE OPREA - CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL ADVISER ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE RUMANIAN PRESS LEAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS UNANSWERED SO THAT A FINAL ASSESSMENT WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE AT A LATER DATE, ESPECIALLY SINCE MORE CHANGES ARE TO BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER, ON THE CHANGES ALREADY PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE MADE:

4. THE 71-YEAR OLD ION GHEORGHE MAURER, PRIME MINISTER SINCE 1961, WAS AN IMPORTANT PERSON WHO WAS REGARDED AT HOME AND ABROAD AS A STABILIZING FACTOR IN THE GOVERNMENT, AS A VOICE OF COMMON SENSE AND AS A BALANCING ELEMENT OF RUMANIAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. HE WAS HIGHLY ESTEEMED BY MANY PEOPLE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF MIDDLE-CLASS TRADITION WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP WHICH OTHERWISE IS COMPOSED ONLY OF PARTY FUNCTIONARIES. HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO - AS FAR AS COULD BE OBSERVED - STATED DISSENTING VIEWS EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF CEAUSESCU SO THAT SPECULATIONS ABOUT HIS RESIGNATION HAD BEEN IN CIRCULATION FOR YEARS. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY THE CASE WHEN, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY, HE MADE A SPEECH - WHICH WAS PUBLISHED - IN WHICH HE STATED CRITERIA CONCERNING RUMANIAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WHICH DIFFERED FROM THOSE OF CEAUSESCU. HE OFTEN MADE DRASTIC AND IRONICAL REMARKS ABOUT RUMANIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION BUT NEVERTHELESS RESIGNED HIMSELF TO IT. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH WESTERN POLITICIANS, HE FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED THE LEADERS AND THE POLICY OF THE SOVIET UNION, BUT HE PROBABLY ALSO HAD HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE LEADERS OF OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

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HE SUFFERED INCREASINGLY FROM HIS ILL HEALTH, WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF A SERIOUS CAR ACCIDENT, SO THAT ONE HAD THE IMPRESSION SINCE LAST AUTUMN THAT HE WAS PAYING LESS AND LESS ATTENTION TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS. OCCASIONALLY, HE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO RETIRE COMPLETELY. THE REASONS GIVEN IN THE PRESS FOR HIS RESIGNATION, I.E. ILL HEALTH AND OLD AGE, HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY DETERMINED HIS DECISION, ALTHOUGH HIS CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS CEAUSESCU, HIS PERSONALITY CULT AND HIS ENFORCED INDUSTRIALIZATION PLANS, WHICH HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE, MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM FURTHER TO MAKE THIS DECISION.

5. MANEA MANESCU - NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CORNELIU MASECU - IS 57 YEARS OLD AND OWES HIS PARTY CAREER TO CEAUSESCU WITH WHOM HE WORKED ALREADY IN THE MID-FORTIES IN THE COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION; HE IS ALSO SAID TO BE RELATED TO CEAUSESCU'S WIFE. ORIGINALLY IN THE ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS IN 1967 APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND THUS OCCUPIED THE MOST IMPORTANT POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD UNTIL 1972. MOST RECENTLY, HE WAS ONE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS. HE IS SOBER AND UNINSPIRING. HIS FORTE SEEMS TO BE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK. HE WAS NOT KNOWN FOR COMPREHENSIVE, FORWARD- LO
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6. ILIE VERDETZ, UP TO NOW MAURER'S FIRST DEPUTY AND MEMBER OF THE PARTY PRESIDUM, WAS APPOINTED CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WORKERS' CONTROL - ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CENTRAL COMMITTEE BODIES FOR THE COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF THE WORK OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.

7. GHEORGHE OPREA, UP TO NOW CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL ADVISER ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE IS DESIGNATED TO BECOME FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND SUCCESSOR TO VERDETZ. OPREA, WHO IS PROBABLY IN HIS MID-FORTIES, HAS ENETERTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH GERMAN INDUSTRY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTIES. HE ACCOMPANIED CEAUSESCU ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. HE HAS UP TO NOW ONLY DEALT WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

8. 47-YEAR-OLD VIRGIL TROFIN, WHO HAD BEEN REGARDED FOR A LONG TIME AS ONE OF THE COKING YOUNG MEN IN THE RUMANIAN PARTY LEADERSHIP AND OCCUPIED IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE PRESIDUM AND THE SECRETARIAT, BEGAN HIS DESCENT ALREADY IN 1971-72. HE IS NOW TO BE GIVEN A NEW JOB
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IN THE PARTY. NO FURTHER DATIALS ARE AS YET KNOW. ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOUR FROM THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY, HE IS TO BE APPOINTED DISTRINCT CHAIRMAN IN KRONSTADT/BRASOV. IF THIS IS TRUE, HIS FALL WILL BE DEEP.

9. THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE GREAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 73-63-4-OLD STEFAN VOITEC WHO LIKES TO EMPHASIZE HIS SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PAST, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ALSO UNIMPORTANT POST OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL. HIS SUCCESSOR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - LARGELY A PRESTIGE POST - IS TAKEN OVER BY 57-YEAR-OLD MIRON CONSTANTINESCU WHO HAS HAD A VARIED CAREER AND - IN ADDITION TO HIS PARTY WORK - BECAME KNOWN ALSO AS A HISTORIAN. HE HAS AN IMPRESSIVE PERSONALITY.

10. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE ALSO WORTH MENTIONING: THE JOB OF PLANNING CHIEF PASSES FROM MANEA MANESCU TO EMIL DRAGANESCU, FORMERLY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, WHO IS ALSO A TRAINED ECONOMIST. IN HIS NEW POST, HE WILL HAVE TO ASSUME THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE-YEAR-PLAN - A THANKLESS JOB. HIS SUCCESSOR AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WILL BE TRAIAN DUDASCH, UP TO NOW STATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY FOR HEAVY ENGINEERING. THE MINISTRY FOR DOMESTIC TRADE GOES TO JANOS FAZEKAS WHO AT THE SAME TIME REMAINS VICE PRIME MINISTER. FAZEKAS REPRESENTS THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.

END TEXT.
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